

## Message Text

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ACTION SCS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-01 H-01 INR-05 CIAE-00  
PRS-01 DHA-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IO-06 /038 W  
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R 031435Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5114  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC  
SUBJECT: AMCITS TOUR GROUP - ENTRANCE WEST BANK

REF: AMMAN 1145, AMMAN 1105, TEL AVIV 1237

1. GOI IS CONFRONTED WITH AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUE WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTINUED ILLEGAL PRESENCE IN ISRAEL OF APPROXIMATELY 1100-1200 BLACK AMCITS WHO CLAIM AN INHERENT RIGHT AS "THE ORIGINAL HEBREW ISRAELI NATION" TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY. THE NUCLEUS OF THE COLONY RESIDES IN THE NEGEV CITY OF DIMONA, WITH SPLINTER GROUPS OF APPROXIMATELY 200 EACH LOCATED IN THE TOWNS OF ARAD AND MITZPEH RAMON.

2. SINCE THE ORIGINAL THREE FAMILIES ENTERED ISRAEL IN 1968, THE COLONY HAS GROWN STEADILY WITH A FLOW OF NEW MEMBERS WHO ENTER THE COUNTRY AS VISITORS AND THEN QUIETLY DISAPPEAR INTO THE "BLACK HEBREW" COMMUNITY. GOI POLICE EFFORTS TO LOCATE SUCH VISITOR "OVER-STAYS" ARE EFFECTIVELY THWARTED BY THE SECT'S CONCEALMENT OF ITS NEW MEMBERS UNTIL POLICE PRESSURE ABATES. AS RECENTLY AS LAST SEPTEMBER A GROUP OF 23 BLACK AMCITS  
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ENTERED ISRAEL, OSTENSIBLY ON A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND, AND THE DAY FOLLOWING THEIR ADMISSION IMMEDIATELY JOINED THE COMMUNITY.

3. GOI IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES ARE RELUCTANT TO EXPEL THE "BLACK HEBREWS" DESPITE THEIR ILLEGAL STATUS FOR FEAR OF CHARGES OF RACIAL BIAS. THE GOI IS DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO PREVENT THE CON-

TINUED ENLARGEMENT OF THE COLONY AND, ACCORDINGLY, HAS INSTRUCTED ITS IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AT ALL PORTS OF ENTRY TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY BY PERSONS POSSIBLY DESTINED TO THE COMMUNITY. SUCH INSTRUCTIONNS, OBVIOUSLY,ARE MOST APPLICABLE TO BLACK AMCITS ALTHOUGH THE ISRAELI NATIONAL POLICE REPORT SEVERAL RECENT CASES OF CITIZENS OF AFRICA STATES HAVING JOINED THE COMMUNITY.

4. ACCORDING TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, GOI AUTHORITIES WERE GREATLY EMBARRASSED BY THE ARBITRARY REFUSAL TO ADMIT ELDER JOHNSON'S GROUP FEBRUARY 23 AND, AFTER CONFIRMATION FROM NEW YORK AS TO THE LEGITIMACY OF THE GROUP, ARRANGED FOR ITS ADMITTANCE FEBRUARY 24. ALL MEMBERS OF ELDER JOHSON'S GROUP HAVE NOW DEPARTED ISRAEL.

5. THE EMBASSY FULLY APPRECIATES EMBASSY AMMAN'S CONCERN IN THIS MATTER AND IS ITSELF CONCERNED THAT LEGITIMATE TOUR GROUPS OF BLACK AMCITS NOT BE PREJUDICED BY THE GOI'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE ENTRY OF PERSONS BELIEVED DESINED TO THE DIMONA COMMUNITY. GOI MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AUTHORITIES, WHILE AWARE OF THE RISKS RUN,ARE DETERMINED TO PREVENT NEW MEMBERS FROM JOINING THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY. THE MINISTRY,HOWEVER, CLAIMS IT IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO INSURE THAT LEGITIMATE TOURISTS NOT BE HINDERED. DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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